

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE GRANT RECIPIENT FOR 1998: THE ANACOSTIA ECO-GARDEN PROJECT**

**Grant Recipient:** Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources  
**Grant Title:** Anacostia Eco-Garden Project  
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**Project Period:** 10/01/99 - 12/31/02  
**Affected Areas:** Anacostia Watershed in Prince George's County, Maryland

### **INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT RATIONALE**

The Anacostia Eco-Garden Project is part of an overall revitalization plan for the Port Towns area of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor and Cottage City, Maryland, which includes small business development, employment training and placement, landscape beautification, ecological and historical tourism, and environmental restoration of the Anacostia River and watershed.

The Anacostia Eco-Garden Project will serve to 1) control non-point water pollution through innovative means and 2) transform a vacant lot along the waterfront into an independent eco-garden and educational program for the Prince George community. In regards to non-point source pollution, efforts will be taken to change the behaviors of community businesses and residents via education and the demonstration of innovative best management practices (BMPs) such as bioretention landscapes and rain gardens.

This project takes a broad view to local and regional water pollution problems affecting the Anacostia & interlinking portions of the Potomac River, as well as the Chesapeake Bay area. Though the eco-garden will be located on Bladensburg's waterfront, with a population of 8,064, its environmental impacts will infuse the entire Anacostia watershed, thus affecting nearly 800,000 people. This project will also serve as a replicable model for other areas on how a community as a whole can help control urban non-point pollution near similar rivers.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources plans to use funds from the Sustainable Development Challenge Grant to provide seed money for project implementation. These funds will be used to support the development of the Anacostia Eco-Garden. Specific tasks include the following:

1. Conduct a market analysis for landscaping & eco-nursery businesses
2. Create community advisory board
3. Conduct site planning and engineering operations

4. Hire staff & recruit volunteers
5. Hold meetings with stakeholders
6. Acquire land for & construct eco-garden
7. Provide technical assistance to businesses on best management practices
8. Organize/implement watershed restoration & landscaping volunteer projects
9. Use local schools in planting of eco-garden and on bioretention projects
10. Clear existing vacant lots along the waterfront

Though funding will cover three years, the project will be ongoing. Certain project tasks, such as the development of a visitor's center, are not part of EPA's grant and are thus not included in this write-up.

### **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources and collaborating community members, local businesses, non-profit environmental and economic development organizations dedicated two years to identify a revitalization plan for the Port Town area. This proposal is just one part of the Port Town Revitalization Initiative, whose collaborating organizations include the following:

Anacostia Watershed Society  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Port Towns Community Development Corporation  
Prince George's Economic Development Corporation